GARY EVERHARDT: PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Of North Carolina} \\ \text{IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES} \\ \\ \textit{Wednesday, May 3, 2000} \end{array}$

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and commend a great public servant of Western North Carolina and the National Park Service, Gary Everhardt, Superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Gary has been devoted to making our National Parks cleaner, safer and more enjoyable for future generations. Today marks the beginning of Gary's well-earned retirement.

Gary is a native of Western North Carolina and is a product of the Lenoir North Carolina School System. He graduated in 1957 with a degree in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State University and immediately began work for the Park Service as a civil engineer for the Blue Ridge Parkway. He has served in engineering positions at the Park Service's Southeast and Southwest offices. Gary was also named the Superintendent of Grand Teton National Park in January 1972. While there he helped orchestrate and conduct the Second World Conference on National Parks. For his effort and hard work, Gary was awarded the Department of the Interior's Meritorious Service Award.

President Gerald Ford recognized Everhardt's dedication, professionalism, and hard work as he named Gary the ninth director of the National Park Service on January 13, 1975. It was under Gary's leadership that the Park Service saw a period of unbridled growth and success. The Park took great steps in the areas of visitor services and safety. Gary, with President Ford's approval, proposed doubling the park size with the purchase of nearly 32 million acres of land in

Gary returned home to the Blue Ridge Parkway in 1977 to assume leadership as the fifth Superintendent of the Parkway and since that time Gary has worked diligently to improve relations with neighbors of the Parkway and government agency officials. Gary took a construction program that was near death and revived it. The final section of the Parkway motor road at Grandfather Mountain was completed in 1987. During Everhardt's tenure, the number of visitors to the park has risen to over 25 million.

I would like to add my tribute to Gary to the long list of honors that he has received in the past. In 1985 Everhardt received the Department of the Interior's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award. In 1990 he received the Cornelius Amory Pugsley Medal from the National Park Foundation for stellar contributions to the advancement of parks and recreation. In September 1998 Gary received the Walter T. Cox award at the George B. Hertzog Lecture at Clemson University, this Award recognized Gary's sustained public achievement in wise management of natural and cultural resources.

Everhardt has a long list of involvement in other agencies and groups including his roles as Past President of the Asheville Federal Executive Association, a member of the Board of

Directors of the Appalachian Consortium, and as a member of the North Carolina National Parks, Parkway & Forestry Development Council.

I am sure that Gary will enjoy this well deserved retirement from the National Park Service. But I believe that it will leave him more time for the jobs that he enjoys most; being a husband, father of two, and a grandfather of three. I know that my colleagues will join me in saluting this fine public servant and community leader and thanking him for nearly 45 years of service to the National Park Service.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF LAFAYETTE PARISH SHERIFF DONALD J. BREAUX

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding law enforcement career of Lafayette Parish Sheriff Donald J. Breaux. Sheriff Breaux's over 30 years of distinguished service in Louisiana law enforcement are coming to a close on July 1, 2000, and I would like to take this opportunity to honor his accomplished service.

Sheriff Breaux began his career in law enforcement in 1958 at the age of twenty-one with the Lafayette Police Department. In 1964, he left local law enforcement to join the Louisiana State Police where he remained until his retirement in 1980. Shortly thereafter, he was appointed Lafayette City Marshall where he served until 1984 when he was elected Sheriff of Lafayette Parish. Today, fifteen years later, he is retiring from the law enforcement arena after what he calls a "blessed" life and career.

His years of distinguished service also includes leadership in numerous law enforcement organizations. He has served as: past president of the Louisiana State Troopers Association; past president of the Louisiana Sheriff's Association; Chairman of the National Sheriff's Drug Enforcement Committee; Director of the Louisiana Sheriff's Association Strike Force; member of the American Correctional Association Committee on Accreditation; member of Accreditation for Corrections; and member of the American Correctional Association's Committee on Correctional Standards.

In his four terms as Lafavette Parish Sheriff. Sheriff Breaux spearheaded construction and operation of the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Training Academy, the opening of the Lafayette Parish Correctional Center, the computerization of the Sheriff's Department and consolidation of many city-parish services for Lafayette Parish residents. He has placed an emphasis on combating drugs in Lafavette Parish through the development of a comprehensive community drug education program. This program, combined with a strong enforcement initiative, equates to roughly 100 drug arrests each month by Metro Narcotics. Sheriff Breaux was also instrumental in bringing the Drug Awareness Resistance Education Program (D.A.R.E.) to school children in Lafayette Parish. Since, DARE has provided over 6,000 Lafayette Parish school children with the knowledge they need to resist and report drugs in their communities.

Sheriff Breaux has made a lasting impact, not only in Lafayette Parish but in Louisiana as a whole. He will long be remembered as a leader who constantly strove to meet the changing and expanding needs of his diverse community. His record of public service exemplifies the heights to which he has brought the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Department, and is one that will be honored for years to come.

Congratulations Sheriff Breaux on your retirement.

THE BUTTERFLY PAVILION & INSECT CENTER OF WESTMINSTER, COLORADO: BRINGING WONDERS OF THE INSECT WORLD TO THE ROCKIES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I think few people know that the Second Congressional District of Colorado is home to over 1,200 spectacular butterflies from 50 different species, over 100 different species of tropical and sub-tropical plants, and a variety of exotic arthropods that are normally found only in faraway lands. This may seem impossible given our dry climate at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, but thanks to the Butterfly Pavilion & Insect Center located in Westminster, Coloradans have the opportunity to see these fascinating creatures and plants first hand.

The Butterfly Pavilion & Insect Center is an educational facility for study of insects and other invertebrates. The facility exists to foster an appreciation of butterflies and other invertebrates while reminding the public about the need for conservation of threatened habitats in the tropics and around the world.

The Butterfly Pavilion & Insect Center is the only stand-alone nonprofit insect zoo in the nation. Visitors to the facility find themselves surrounded by free-flying butterflies while walking through the lush, tropical conservatory. A chrysalis viewing area allows visitors to watch the amazing process of metamorphosis as adult butterflies emerge from their gemlike chrysalides. In the insect center, visitors can watch, touch or take a closer look at some of the world's most fascinating insects and their relatives. They can discover what it feels like to hold a rose-haired tarantula from Chile, a Madagascar Hissing Cockroach or a giant mealworm.

The Butterfly Pavilion & Insect Center is a publicly supported scientific and educational facility and operates in collaboration with scientific advisors from zoos, universities and museums both locally and nationally. The facility is located at 6252 West 104th Avenue in Westminster, Colorado. It can also be found on the World Wide Web at www.butterflies.org. I encourage everyone to visit and learn more.

I would like to commend this organization for their steadfast commitment in educating